

Department of Planning and Zoning

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TO: Planning Commission Ordinance Committee
FROM: Scott Gustin
DATE: September 1, 2016
RE: Homeless Shelters

Within its borders, Burlington contains a number of homeless shelters. Some are temporary – for the winter months only for a season or two – and others are permanent. Typically, these shelters are reviewed under the zoning code as “community houses” and are governed by those standards. There is no “homeless shelter” use within *Appendix A – Use Table – All Zoning Districts* of the Comprehensive Development Ordinance, nor is the term defined in *Article 13: Definitions*.

A community house is intended as a long term living arrangement similar to that of a group home. Homeless shelters are aimed more towards transient occupancy by individuals in need of temporary shelter. The zoning code should directly address homeless shelters. This initial discussion will center on defining the problem and identifying general parameters for a possible zoning amendment. A copy of “Zoning Practice: Practice Social Services” is included in this packet for reference and background information.